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Applicant(s): John S. Yates Jr., et al.

Title: RECORDING CLASSIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONS EXECUTED BY A  
COMPUTER

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Washington D.C. 20231

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*[Signature]*  
Dw E. Borg

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examining this application, kindly rewrite claims 1 and 24 as follows.

- 1 1. (once amended) A microprocessor and support software, comprising:
- 2 an instruction pipeline designed to execute instructions of an instruction set, control-
- 3 transfer instructions of the instructions being instructions defined to transfer execution control of
- 4 a computer from a source instruction to a destination instruction, control-flow instructions of the
- 5 instruction set being classified into a relatively small plurality of classes relative to the number of
- 6 instruction opcodes executable by the instruction pipeline, most divisions in the classification
- 7 being based on a static encoding of control-flow instructions executed, with at most minor
- 8 divisions in the classification being based on dynamic or data-dependent execution behavior;
- 9 a storage register designed to store, and updating circuitry active during execution of a
- 10 program on the microprocessor, designed to record into the storage register, as part of the
- 11 execution of control-flow instructions of the instruction set and without software intervention, a
- 12 value reflecting the class, from among the encoding-based classification, of a control-flow
- 13 instruction recently executed by the pipeline;